



**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

**Agricultural
Marketing
Service**

**Tobacco
Division**

Official Standard Grades for Georgia and Florida Shade- Grown Cigar-Wrapper Tobacco (U.S. Type 62)

Effective date (April 1971)

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**Official Standards Grades For
Georgia and Florida Shade-Grown Cigar-Wrapper 1/
(U.S. Type 62)**

DEFINITIONS

Definitions. As used in these standards, the words and phrases hereinafter defined shall have the indicated meanings so assigned.

Air-cured. Tobacco cured under natural atmospheric conditions without the use of artificial heat except to prevent pole-burn in damp weather.

Body. The thickness and density of a leaf or the weight per unit of surface. (See elements of Quality chart.)

Candela-cured. Tobacco cured under controlled artificial atmospheric conditions by regulating the heat and humidity. This process produces a green or greenish color in the cured leaves.

Candela-cured green colors. A group of candela-cured wrapper colors ranging from a yellowish green to dark green. The range is expressed as yellowish green (YG), light green (LG), green (G), and dark green (KG).

Class. A major division of tobacco based on method of cure or principal usage.

Color. The third factor of a grademark based on the relative hues, saturation or chroma, and color values common to the type.

Color shade. The varying strength or weakness of a color or hue.

Color symbols. In this type the color symbols used for naturally cured tobacco are M -- mixed color, FL -- fleck, K -- variegated, and G -- green. Color symbols used for candela-cured tobacco are LG -- light green, G -- green, YG -- yellowish green, FL -- fleck, and KG -- dark green or dark green and variegated mixed.

Condition. The state of tobacco which results from the method of preparation or from the degree of fermentation. Words used to describe the condition of tobacco are undried, air-dried, steam-dried, sweating, sweated, and aged.

Crude. A subdegree of maturity. (See Rule 18.)

1/ These standards provide grades for both air-cured and candela-cured tobacco.

Cured. Tobacco dried of its sap by either natural or artificial processes.

Damage. The effect of mold, must, rot, black rot, or other fungus or bacterial diseases which attack tobacco in its cured state. Tobacco having the odor of mold, must, or rot is considered damaged. (See Rule 19.)

Dirty. The state of tobacco containing an abnormal amount of dirt or sand. (See Rule 19.)

Elasticity. The flexible, springy nature of the tobacco leaf to recover approximately its original size and shape after it has been stretched.

Elements of quality. Physical characteristics used to determine the quality of tobacco. Words selected to describe degrees within each element are shown in the elements of quality chart.

Fibers. Lateral and cross veins in a tobacco leaf. (See elements of quality chart.)

Fleck (FL). Spots or dapples on the surface of the tobacco leaf. (See Rule 14.)

Foreign matter. Any extraneous substance or material. (See Rule 19.)

Form. The stage of preparation of tobacco such as stemmed or unstemmed.

Grade. A subdivision of a type according to group and quality and to other characteristics when they are of sufficient importance to be treated separately.

Grademark. A grademark normally consists of three symbols which indicate group, quality, and color. A letter is used to indicate group, a number to indicate quality, and a letter or letters to indicate color. Color symbols are used only in the A group.

Green (G). Green color. In natural wrappers any leaf which has a green color affecting 10 percent or more of its surface may be described as green. (See Rule 16.)

Greenish. A term applied to greenish-tinged air-cured tobacco. Any leaf of natural wrapper tobacco which has a greenish tinge or a pale green color affecting 10 percent or more of its surface may be described as greenish.

Group. A division of a type covering closely related grades. Groups in this type are Wrappers (A), Stained (S), Brokes (X), and Nondescript (N).

Injury. Hurt or impairment. (See Rule 13.)

Leaf scrap. A byproduct of unstemmed tobacco. Leaf scrap results from handling unstemmed tobacco and consists of loose and tangled whole or broken leaves.

Leaf structure. The cell development of a leaf as indicated by its porosity. (See element of quality chart.)

Length. The linear measurement of cured tobacco leaves from the butt of the midrib to the extreme tip. (See element of quality chart.)

Lot. A pile, basket, bulk, package, or other definite unit.

Maturity. The degree of ripeness. (See elements of quality chart.)

Mixed color (M). Normal colors of air-cured type 62 mixed in various proportions. Golden brown, light brown, reddish brown, and greenish hues may be included.

Nested. Any tobacco which has been loaded, packed, or arranged to conceal foreign matter or tobacco of inferior grade, quality, or condition. (See Rule 19.)

Offtype. Tobacco of distinctly different characteristics which cannot be classified as type 62. (See Rule 19.)

Order (case). The state of tobacco with respect to its moisture content.

Package. A hogshead, tierce, case, bale, or other securely enclosed parcel or bundle.

Packing. A lot of tobacco consisting of a number of packages submitted as one definite unit for sampling or inspecting. It is represented to contain the same kind of tobacco and has a common identification number or mark on each package.

Quality. A division of a group or the second factor of a grademark based on the relative degree of one or more elements of quality in tobacco.

Semicured. Tobacco in the process of being cured or which is partially but not thoroughly cured. Semicured includes tobacco which contains fat stems, wet butts, swelled stems, or stems that have not been thoroughly dried in the curing process. (See Rule 19.)

Side. A certain phase of quality, color, or length as contrasted with some other phase of quality, color, or length; or any peculiar characteristic of tobacco.

Sound. Free of damage.

Special factor. A symbol or term authorized to be used with specified grades. Tobacco to which a special factor is applied may meet the general specifications but has a peculiar side or characteristic which tends to modify the grade. (See Rule 9.)

Stained. A term applied to tobacco that has been blackened, bruised, or discolored by excessive moisture. (See Rules 17 and 19.)

Stem. The midrib or large central vein of a tobacco leaf.

Stemmed. A form of tobacco, including strips and strip scrap, from which the stems or midribs have been removed.

Strips. The sides of a tobacco leaf from which the stem has been removed or a lot of tobacco composed of strips.

Subgrade. Any grade modified by a special factor symbol.

Sweated. The condition of tobacco which has passed through one or more fermentations natural to tobacco packed with a normal percentage of moisture. This condition is sometimes described as aged.

Sweating. The condition of tobacco in the process of fermentation.

Tobacco. Tobacco as it appears between the time it is cured and stripped from the stalk, or primed and cured, and the time it enters into the different manufacturing processes. The acts of stemming, sweating, and conditioning are not regarded as manufacturing processes. Tobacco, as used in these standards does not include manufactured or semimanufactured products, stems, cuttings, clippings, trimmings, siftings, or dust.

Tobacco products. Manufactured tobacco, including cigarettes, cigars, smoking tobacco, chewing tobacco, and snuff.

Type. A division of a class of tobacco having certain common characteristics and closely related grades. Tobacco which has the same characteristics and corresponding qualities, colors, and lengths is classified as one type, regardless of any factors of historical or geographical nature which cannot be determined by an examination of the tobacco.

Type 62. That type of shade-grown tobacco known as Georgia and Florida Shade-grown, produced principally in southwestern Georgia and in the central part of northern Florida.

Undried. The condition of unfermented tobacco which has not been air-dried or steam-dried.

Uniformity. An element of quality which describes the consistency of a lot of tobacco. (See Rule 12.)

Unstemmed. A form of tobacco, including whole leaf and leaf scrap, from which the stems or midribs have not been removed.

Variegated. Two or more contrasting colors or tints within a leaf. (See Rule 15.)

Wet. Any sound tobacco containing excessive moisture to the extent that it is in unsafe or doubtful-keeping order. Wet applies to any tobacco which is not damaged but which is likely to damage if treated in the customary manner. (See Rule 19.)

RULES

Rules. The application of these official standard grades shall be in accordance with the following rules.

Rule 1. Each grade shall be treated as a subdivision of a particular type. When the grade is stated in an inspection certificate, the type also shall be stated.

Rule 2. The determination of a grade shall be based upon a thorough examination of a lot or packing of tobacco or of an official sample of the lot or packing.

Rule 3. The grade assigned to any lot or packing of tobacco shall be a true representation of the tobacco at the time of inspection and certification. If, at any time, it is found that a lot or packing of tobacco does not comply with the specifications of the grade previously assigned, it shall not thereafter be represented as such grade.

Rule 4. Tobacco of the A, X, or S groups shall be placed straight in boxes or bales of normal size, weight, and shape with the butts out and tips overlapping sufficiently to make a level, solid, and uniform pack. All sides of the bales shall be completely covered with paper or other suitable protective material.

Rule 5. A lot or packing of tobacco on the marginal line between two colors shall be placed in the color with which it best corresponds with respect to body or other associated elements of quality.

Rule 6. Any lot or packing of tobacco which meets the specifications of two grades shall be placed in the higher grade.

Rule 7. A lot or packing of tobacco meets the specifications of a grade when it is not lower in any element of quality than the degree stated in grade specifications and does not exceed the tolerance(s) of such grade.

Rule 8. In determining the grade of a lot or packing of tobacco, the lot or packing as a whole shall be considered. Minor irregularities which do not affect over one percent of the tobacco shall be overlooked.

Rule 9. Any special factor approved by the Director of the Tobacco Division, Agricultural Marketing Service, may be used after a grademark to show a peculiar side or characteristic of the tobacco which tends to modify the grade.

Rule 10. Interpretations, the use of specifications, and the meaning of terms shall be in accordance with determinations or clarifications made by the Chief of the Standards and Testing Branch and approved by the Director.

Rule 11. The use of any grade may be restricted by the Director during any marketing season when it is found that the grade is not needed or appears in insufficient volume to justify its use.

Rule 12. Uniformity shall be expressed in percentages. These percentages shall govern the portion of a lot or packing which must meet each specification of the grade; the remaining portion must be closely related. Specified percentages of uniformity shall not affect limitations established by other rules.

Rule 13. Injury tolerance shall be expressed in percentages. The appraisal of injury shall be based upon the percentage of affected wrapper cutting area or the degree of injury.

Rule 14. Fleck shall be included only in A3FL, N1, and N2.

Rule 15. Any lot or packing of tobacco containing over 10 percent of variegated leaves shall be designated by the color symbol "K" in natural wrappers and "KG" in candela wrappers.

Rule 16. Any lot or packing of natural wrapper tobacco containing over 10 percent of green leaves shall be designated by the color symbol "G."

Rule 17. Stained tobacco shall be included only in grades of the S and N groups.

Rule 18. Crude leaves shall be included only in N2.

Rule 19. Tobacco shall be designated "N2" when it is crude, damaged, dirty, improperly packed, nested, offtype, semicured, wet, or when it contains foreign matter, is stained over 20 percent, or has an odor foreign to the type.

ELEMENTS OF QUALITY AND DEGREES OF EACH ELEMENT.
Georgia and Florida Shade-grown Cigar-wrapper Tobacco, U.S. Type 62

These words or terms are used to determine tobacco quality. Characteristics which constitute general quality are designated as elements of quality. The range within each element is expressed by words or terms designated as degrees.

ELEMENTS		DEGREES	
Body	Thin	Medium	Heavy
Color shade	True	Dusky	Dull
Maturity	Ripe	Unripe	Immature
Leaf structure	Open	Firm	Close
Fiber size	Small	Medium	Large
Fiber color	Blending	Contrasting	Clashing
Injury tolerance <u>1</u> /			
Uniformity <u>1</u> /			
Length <u>2</u> /			

1/ Expressed in percentages

2/ Expressed in inches

GRADES FOR NATURAL (AIR-CURED) TOBACCO

Wrappers (A Group). This group consists of tied, elastic tobacco having at least 90 percent of uninjured surface usable for cigar wrappers.

U.S.
Grades Grade Names, Minimum Specifications, and Tolerances

A1M Choice Mixed-color Natural Wrappers.

Thin, true color shades, ripe, open, small and blending fibers, over 14 inches in length. Uniformity, 95 percent; injury tolerance, 5 percent.

A2M Fine short Mixed-color Natural Wrappers.

Thin, true color shades, ripe, open, small and blending fibers, 14 inches or under in length. Uniformity, 95 percent; injury tolerance, 5 percent.

A3M Good Mixed-color Natural Wrappers.

Medium body, true color shades, ripe, open, medium-sized and contrasting fibers, over 14 inches in length. Uniformity, 90 percent; injury tolerance, 10 percent.

A3FL Good Fleck Natural Wrappers.

Medium body, ripe, firm, over 14 inches in length. Uniformity, 90 percent; injury tolerance, 10 percent.

A3K Good Variegated Natural Wrappers.

Medium body, unripe, firm. Uniformity, 90 percent; injury tolerance, 10 percent.

A3G Good Green Natural Wrappers.

Heavy body, immature, close. Uniformity, 90 percent; injury tolerance, 10 percent.

Stained (S Group). This group consists of tied, stained tobacco from the A group.

U.S.	
Grades	Grade Names, Minimum Specifications, and Tolerances

S1 Choice Stained Natural Wrappers.

Thin, true color shades, ripe, open, over 14 inches in length. Uniformity, 85 percent. Tolerances: 5 percent injury, 10 percent stain parallel to the midrib.

S2 Fine Stained Natural Wrappers.

Medium body, ripe, open, over 14 inches in length. Uniformity, 70 percent. Tolerances: 10 percent injury, 20 percent stain.

Brokes (X Group). This group consists of tied, highly injured tobacco from the A group.

U.S.	
Grades	Grade Names and Minimum Specifications

X1 Choice Natural Brokes.

Medium body, true color shades ripe, open. Minimum wrapper yield 50 percent.

X2 Fine Natural Brokes.

Medium body, ripe, open. Minimum wrapper yield, 25 percent.

Nondescript (N Group). Tobacco which does not meet the specifications of the lowest grade in any other group. This tobacco may be tied in hands or packed loose.

U.S.	
Grades	Grade Names and Specifications

N1 Best Natural Nondescript.

Any tobacco except N2 which does not meet the specifications of the lowest grade in the A, S, or X groups.

N2 Lowest Natural Nondescript.

Any tobacco classified as crude, damaged, dirty, nested, offtype, semicured, or wet; tobacco that is improperly packed, contains foreign matter, is stained over 20 percent, or has an odor foreign to the type.

GRADES FOR CANDELA-CURED TOBACCO

Wrappers (A Group). This group consists of tied, elastic tobacco having at least 90 percent of uninjured surface usable for cigar wrappers.

U.S. Grades	Grade Names, Minimum Specifications, and Tolerances
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A1LG Choice Light Green Candela Wrappers.

Thin, true color shade, ripe, open, small and blending fibers, over 14 inches in length. Uniformity, 95 percent; injury tolerance, 5 percent.

A1G Choice Green Candela Wrappers.

Medium body, true color shade, ripe, open, small and blending fibers, over 14 inches in length. Uniformity, 95 percent; injury tolerance, 5 percent.

A2G Fine Green Short Candela Wrappers.

Medium body, true color shade, ripe, open, small and blending fibers, 14 inches or under in length. Uniformity, 95 percent; injury tolerance, 5 percent.

A3YG Good Yellowish Green Candela Wrappers.

Thin to medium body, ripe, open, medium-sized and contrasting fibers. Uniformity, 90 percent; injury tolerance, 10 percent.

A3FL Good Fleck Candela Wrappers.

Thin to medium body, ripe, firm. Uniformity, 90 percent; injury tolerance, 10 percent.

A3KG Good Dark Green and Variegated Candela Wrappers.

Heavy, unripe, close. Uniformity, 90 percent; injury tolerance, 10 percent.

Brokes (X Group). This group consists of tied, highly injured tobacco from the A group.

U.S. Grades	Grade Names and Minimum Specifications
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X1	Choice Candela Brokes.
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Medium body, true color shades, ripe, open. Minimum wrapper yield, 50 percent.

X2	Fine Candela Brokes.
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Medium body, ripe, firm. Minimum wrapper yield, 25 percent.

Nondescript (N Group). Tobacco which does not meet the specifications of the lowest grade in any other group. This tobacco may be tied in hands or packed loose.

U.S. Grades	Grade Names and Specifications
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N1	Best Candela Nondescript.
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Any tobacco except N2 which does not meet the specifications of the lowest grades in the A or X groups.

N2	Lowest Candela Nondescript.
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Any tobacco classified as crude, damaged, dirty, nested, offtype, semicured, or wet; tobacco that is improperly packed, contains foreign matter, or has an odor foreign to the type.

SUMMARY OF STANDARD GRADES

Natural (air-cured)

<u>Wrappers</u>	<u>Stained</u>
A1M	S1
A2M	S2
A3M A3FL A3K A3G	

<u>Brokes</u>	<u>Nondescript</u>
X1	N1
X2	N2

Candela-cured

<u>Wrappers</u>	<u>Brokes</u>	<u>Nondescript</u>
A1LG A1G	X1	N1
A2G	X2	N2
A3YG A3FL A3KG		

KEY TO STANDARD GRADEMARKS

<u>Groups</u>	<u>Qualities</u>
A -- Wrapper	1-- Choice
S -- Stained	2 -- Fine
X -- Brokes	3 -- Good
N -- Nondescript	

Colors

M -- Mixed color	G - Green	KG - Dark green or
FL -- Fleck	LG - Light green	dark green and
K -- Variegated	YG - Yellowish green	variegated mixed